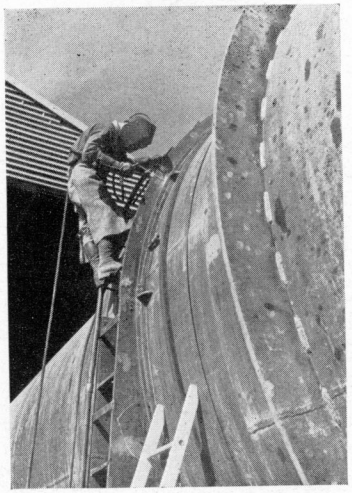
Dream of Pioneers Is Now Fast Becoming a Reality

AND, so, in still another phase of its accomplishment, the Grand Coulee Dam will surpass anything of its kind yet attempted. The 18 generators to be placed in the two power houses will be driven by 150,000-horsepower turbines of vertical design. Nine turbines now are operating with three on order. Water to each of the units is delivered through an 18-foot, steel penstock. The water enters the penstock, at full load, at the rate of 141 tons each second. Under this condition, enough passes through each turbine in a single day to provide 30 gallons per capita for nearly 100,000,000 persons—an indication of the hugeness of these elecric units.

Without entering into the mathematical analysis of the project, it is difficult for one not versed in engineering to imagine the vastness of the far-flung development to be provided by the Grand Coulee Dam in its various ramifications. Truly, the project will be a man-made giant, whose power will transmit life to a now barren soil, as well as bring convenience to man as an individual, and a new prosperity to industry. In its every phase, it is opening the northwest to the entire country as a hitherto undiscovered frontier. Electric lights will burn where before only flickering oil lamps provided sole illumination for the family fireside. Modern devices will remove the burdens of thousands of housewives, and motorized machinery will add to the convenience of the farmer and small producer, and into the homes of countless numbers will be brought the education and entertainment of the radio, not to mention the sundry modern miracles wrought by science—all because the vision of a few pioneers is becoming a reality in the construction of Grand Coulee Dam.



Now Classifying Lands

As to the distribution of power to be developed from the flow of the country's second largest river, only initial plans for the network of transmission lines have been considered to date. However, a line has already been built from the Bonneville system, extending from the northwest portion of Oregon into Washington and the district traversed.

Though the irrigation of the Columbia Basin could not go forward until such time as the dam was completed, as well as portions of the power plants, work is well along in surveying and classifying the land to be watered. Then, there are the reservoirs for water storage and canals for carrying the life-giving bounty to the sun-baked soil to be considered. They, too, have to be constructed, after detailed plans are drawn to provide adequate service over the area to receive irrigation. Initial steps in this direction also are now being undertaken.